



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Deanna Masterson, (303) 239-3671

Jedd Sondergard, (970) 240-5300

**BLM Southwest Resource Advisory Council Subgroup Hosting Meetings to Discuss
Wild and Scenic River Suitability Studies**

MONTROSE, Colo. - The Bureau of Land Management Southwest Resource Advisory Council subgroup will hold a series of public meetings in Telluride, Naturita and Norwood, Colo. Jan. 4, 5 and 20 to discuss Wild and Scenic River suitability studies.

The Jan. 4 and 5 meetings will address private property impacts. The discussions will focus on the eligible segments of the San Miguel River, Tabeguache Creek, Dry Creek and Naturita Creek.

The Jan. 20 meeting will address Wild and Scenic River basics (impacts, management alternatives, etc.).

Meeting Details:

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wilkinson Public Library

100 West Pacific Ave., Telluride, CO 81435

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Naturita Community Building

411 W 2nd Ave, Naturita, CO 81422

Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Norwood Community Center

1670 Naturita Street, Norwood, CO 81423

Public input is a vital part of the Wild and Scenic River suitability process. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act seeks to preserve certain rivers and their immediate environments, maintain free-flowing conditions, protect water quality and fulfill other conservation purposes. Based on various criteria, river segments may be designated wild, scenic, recreational or remain undesignated. For more information on the Wild and Scenic River designation process visit www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild_and_scenic_river.html.

The Southwest Colorado RAC subgroup is composed of area residents representing diverse interests within the Uncompahgre Field Office. The eight-member subgroup is responsible for forwarding consensus-based recommendations regarding Wild and Scenic River suitability on several river segments by February 2011 to the Southwest Colorado RAC.

The Southwest Colorado RAC is one of three advisory councils in BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public interests, ranging from environmental to local government to commercial activity. For more information on Colorado's RACs, go to www.blm.gov/co and select Get Involved, then Advisory Councils.

-BLM-

Deanna Masterson
BLM Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-239-3671